

REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the above-mentioned Official Action in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 4 and 9-11 are now pending in this application, with Claims 1 and 11 being independent. Claims 2, 3, 5, 6 and 12 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Initially, Applicants note with appreciation the indication that Claims 1, 4 and 9-11 are allowed. These claims have not been amended herein, thus remaining in condition for allowance.

Claims 2, 3, 5, 6 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103, but have been cancelled herein, thus rendering these rejections moot. The foregoing action has been taken without prejudice to or disclaimer of subject matter, and without conceding correctness of the rejections, but rather strictly to obtain an earlier allowance and to expedite issuance.

This Amendment After Final Rejection is an earnest attempt to advance prosecution and reduce the number of issues, and is believed to clearly place this application in condition for allowance. This Amendment was not earlier presented because Applicants earnestly believed that the prior Amendment placed the subject application in

condition for allowance. Accordingly, entry of this Amendment under 37 CFR 1.116 is respectfully requested.

Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the above-noted Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowability are requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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